



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE CONNECTICUT DISTRICT OFFICE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Release Date: Immediate

Release Number: 2004:02

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VOICE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND CONCERNS ON FEERAL BUSINESS REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ISSUES ON THURSDAY MARCH 25, 2004

On Thursday, March 25, 2004, the SBA's National Ombudsman will be conducting a regulatory fairness hearing in Stamford from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Ferguson Library, One Library Plaza 3rd Floor auditorium. This hearing will offer small businesses and trade/business associations a prime opportunity to offer testimony on federal government regulatory enforcement and compliance actions affecting small businesses such as, but not limited to:

- examinations and audits
- inspections
- record-keeping reviews
- prohibition to open/expand a business
- opportunity (or lack thereof) for a business to identify and correct compliance problems informally before a federal government agency takes an enforcement action (i.e. impose a fine, deny a permit, etc.)

The Office of the National Ombudsman and the upcoming hearing will not address:

- policies of or actions taken by state and local government
- existing or proposed federal legislation or regulations related to business
- regulations governing federal program eligibility and participation requirements for businesses

If you would like to present testimony/comments (approximately five minutes) before the National Ombudsman, please contact Marie Record at SBA's Connecticut District Office at (860) 240-4670 or via email at marie.record@sba.gov. If it is impossible for you to present your comments in person, you can still forward your written comments to Marie Record to be read into the hearing records. In either case, we ask that written testimony be submitted to the Connecticut District Office by Friday, March 19, 2004.

Under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, the Office of the National Ombudsman was created at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The National Ombudsman is authorized to receive and investigate complaints and comments from small businesses regarding regulatory enforcement actions taken against them by federal government agencies.

Please also feel free to pass on this information to other parties you feel would be interested and would like to participate.

For more information on the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act and the role of the National Ombudsman, please go to <http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman>.

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